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APPENDIX "B"

This is UNEVALUATED

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Tests of New A.A. Guns in TATISHCheVO in 1951

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TATISHCheVO Training Camp in SARATOV Province he learned about tests being carried out on new A.A. guns in a neighbouring military camp. He said that in August or September, 1951, almost every night he and his fellow soldiers heard the roar of guns from the neighbouring training grounds and shooting ranges. When the recruits asked their officers what it was they were told not to ask too many questions, that new guns were being tested and that the matter was very secret. Informant learned more details from the N.C.O.'s later. They told him that the guns were designed by an engineer from the Motor Vehicle Factory at GORKLY (GORKOVSKIY) AVTOZAVOD, abbreviated GAZ) and manufactured there. According to the N.C.O.'s the guns were still being tested to improve accuracy and speed of fire: they were very secret and would be a great surprise to the enemy. Informant did not know any details concerning the guns. He noticed that they fired in bursts "like machine-guns" but appeared to be of a rather heavy calibre. He never saw them.

/Reactions of Soviet ...

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Reactions of Soviet Troops in Austria to:-(a) STALIN's Death

3. Informant said that he and all his fellow soldiers were deeply impressed and saddened by STALIN's death: "He was a very good man, he created new things in Russia and won many victories." Informant was unable, however, to specify what the "new things" were, and he did not say whether they were good or bad. This attitude was reminiscent of that of a Russian peasant towards the "good Father Czar".

(b) The Arrest of BERIYA

4. Informant's opinion about BERIYA's arrest was also very "Russian". He said that neither he nor his friends were impressed. They took the view that those in authority knew best and that BERIYA was a traitor. Informant and his friends were not interested in such matters and did not discuss it because they were too tired and too busy.

Morale of Officers and Other Ranks

5. Informant respects officers and fully appreciates their role in the Armed Forces. He considers that Field Unit officers educate and look after their men. The only officers whom he dislikes are those of the Administrative formations and above all the C.E. personnel. He believes that married officers in Austria are more contented since their wives were allowed to join them. The first wives arrived in autumn, 1953. In January, 1954, the scheme was suddenly stopped, but soon afterwards a second batch arrived. The arrival of the officers' wives also proved an advantage for Other Ranks since the husbands became less strict in performing their checking duties, night controls, etc..
6. According to Informant, morale was rather low among Other Ranks in his unit and in the other rear formations. They were overworked, tired, and had no amusements. Their only entertainment was vodka, which was delivered to them by the civilian Russian personnel and the Austrians. Drinking was not allowed, however, and drunkards were considered demoralised and sent back to Russia.
7. Informant mentioned as a positive feature the very strong esprit de corps to be found everywhere among the personnel of the Armed Forces. Inside the Army, he said, a good soldier never betrays his comrades. Therefore when officers investigate such matters as bottle parties, association with Austrian women, fighting, etc., they find little assistance among the other soldiers.

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If there is a "misunderstanding" between a member of the Armed Forces (officer or other rank) and a civilian, other members of the Forces will always take the part of the serviceman, whether he is from the same branch of the Service or not. Also, generally speaking, military personnel are united in a deep hatred of the Militia and M.V.D. personnel and, above all, their own counter-espionage officers.

Attitude towards Women Auxiliaries in the Armed Forces

8. Informant stated that women serving with the Armed Forces were very unpopular among the other ranks. He said that the main reasons for this unfriendly and often hostile attitude were, firstly, that female O.R.'s made no attempt to conceal the fact that they despised O.R.'s, and secondly, that they were well paid (1,200 Austrian shillings per month) and "robbed officers of their money".

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